

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A bending ring for supporting a glass sheet during heating, said bending ring comprising:

a pair of longitudinally extending tubular members being generally square-shaped in cross section;

a plurality of transversely extending tubular members being generally square-shaped in cross section, said plurality of transversely extending tubular members being fixedly coupled to said pair of longitudinally extending tubular members to form a generally rectangular assembly;

a plurality of support brackets generally having an extending portion and a face portion, said extending portion positioned adjacent a first side of one of said pair of longitudinally extending tubular members, said face portion abutting a second side of said one of said pair of longitudinally extending tubular members;

a pair of central stationary members fixedly coupled to said pair of longitudinally extending tubular members via said plurality of support brackets;
and

a pair of outboard movable members movably coupled to said pair of longitudinally extending tubular members via said plurality of support brackets.

2. The bending ring according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a square-shaped tubular gusset fixedly coupled between at least one of the pair of longitudinally extending tubular member and at least one of said plurality of transversely extending tubular members.

3. The bending ring according to Claim 1 wherein said pair of longitudinally extending tubular members and said plurality of transversely extending tubular members are made of a stainless steel having an exterior dimension of approximately 1.25" x 1.25" with a wall thickness of approximately 1/16".